

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A visual terminal apparatus for providing a visual communication service, comprising:

- 5 a camera unit for photographing a user image;
- an image processing unit connected to said camera unit for extracting a portion of user's image outputted from said camera unit and synthesizing the extracted portion of the user's image with a pseudo background; and
- 10 a display unit for displaying the synthesized image outputted from said image processing unit.

2. A visual terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing unit includes:

- 15 an image capturing unit for capturing the user and background from the camera unit as an image file;
- an image extracting unit connected to said image capturing unit for extracting the portion of the user's image outputted from said image capturing unit;
- a memory for storing a plurality of backgrounds; and
- 20 an image synthesizing unit connected to said image extracting unit and said memory for synthesizing the portion of the user's image from said image extracting unit with at least one of the backgrounds from the memory.

3. A visual terminal apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said image synthesizing unit outputs only the background from said memory if the user's image is

25 not outputted from said image extracting unit.

4. A visual terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said visual terminal apparatus is one selected from a group including a visual telephone, a mobile telephone, a PDA and a computer capable of visual communication.

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5. A visual terminal apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the portion of the user's image comprises the user's face.

6. A method for transmitting a pseudo background image in a visual terminal apparatus which comprises a camera unit for photographing a user image to provide a visual telephone service, a memory for storing a plurality of background images and a display unit for displaying images, said method comprises the following steps of:

capturing the user and background image photographed by the camera unit as an image file;

extracting a user's image from the captured image; and

synthesizing the extracted user's image with at least one of the background images from the memory to output a synthesized image to the display unit.

7. A method for transmitting a pseudo background image in a visual terminal apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising the step of outputting the background image from the memory to the display unit if the user's image has not been extracted from the captured image.

8. A method for transmitting a pseudo background image in a visual

terminal apparatus which comprises a camera unit for photographing a user image to provide a visual telephone service, a memory for storing a plurality of background images and a display unit for displaying images, said method comprises the steps of:

capturing the user and background image photographed by the camera unit as

5 an image file;

extracting a user's image from the captured image; and

synthesizing the extracted user's image with the plurality of background images from the memory to output a synthesized image to the display unit in a panoramic manner.

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9. A method for transmitting a pseudo background image in a visual terminal apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising the step of outputting the background image from the memory to the display unit if the user's image has not been extracted from the captured image.